

STORY OF MEXICO FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO TO-DAY

Six Hundred Spaniards Under
Cortes Overcame the Aztecs 400 Years Ago.

SUCCESSIVE CONQUESTS

Chain of Tragedies, Violent Death, Treachery, Bravery and Cowardice.

(Written for The Evening World)
BY WALLACE GILLPATRICK.

When the Spaniards conquered Mexico they found a flourishing race of people, i. e., the ancient Mexicans, with a well-developed civilization of Oriental character. It is now believed that the area covered by the ancient Mexican race extended from British Columbia to Costa Rica. Its principal habitat was the great central tableland of Mexico, bounded on the north by Texas and New Mexico, and extending south to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, with an area of 48,000 square miles and an elevation of from 4,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level.

The Conquest of Mexico by Cortes meant ultimately the conquest of the Aztecs, that being the name of his dominant and ruling nation; the races which are best described as the Ancient Mexicans were then divided into various nations, and each had its own king, language and distinctive forms of worship. When the Spaniards came, Montezuma, king of the Aztecs, whose capital was Tenochtitlán, over whose ruins the present City of Mexico was constructed, had either conquered or was endeavoring to conquer all the other Mexican nations. It was Cortes' excellent strategy to conquer first the enemies of Montezuma, like the fierce Tlaxcalans, and make them his allies against the Aztecs. The Spaniards only quieted six hundred, but through conquering and winning over the nations who were against Montezuma, he installed in the cause of Spain many thousands of Indian warriors. With their aid, he and his Spaniards would have been aware off the map by the Aztecs.

HISTORY FROM THE DEATH OF MONTEZUMA.

In 1520 Montezuma died—it is believed he was struck down by a missile hurled by one of his own people while he was begging the crowds, from the roof of the palace where Cortes held him as hostage, to yield to the Spaniards. He was succeeded by his nephew, Cuauhtemoc, who, when the Spanish victory was complete and he was led a prisoner before Cortes, begged the conqueror to dispatch him, on the spot, with his dagger. Cortes treated him kindly and offered to protect him in his honorable retirement, but he later feared that while Cuauhtemoc lived his own rule was insecure, and therefore made a pretext to have him hanged, thus ridding himself of a heroic foe who would doubtless have been a menace to the Spaniards.

1522, Cortes was Governor, Captain-General and Chief Justice of the conquered territories.

1523, the Tribunal of the Inquisition was formally established in Mexico.

Nothing worth speaking of happened for a century, when occurred the conquest of Texas.

1537, the Jesuits were expelled from all Spanish America.

1540, the parish priest, Hidalgo, sounded the cry of Mexican independence and the downfall of the Spaniards' rule of "blood and gold."

1541, Hidalgo was captured and shot by the Loyalists.

1542, the Inquisition was suppressed.

1543, Mexico's independence from Spain was consummated.

1544, the first Mexican Congress assembled. Iturbide was proclaimed Emperor, but Gen. Santa Anna took up arms in favor of a republic.

1545, Iturbide abdicated, and the Centralist and Federalist political parties were formed. The Monroe Doctrine was adopted by us. Iturbide returned from European banishment and was summarily executed.

1546, the Mexican Congress adopted a constitution and named the country United States of Mexico.

1547-1847, war between the United States and Mexico terminated by the capture of Mexico City by the Americans and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

1548, England and Spain withdrew from Mexico, and the French army, with the intention of conquest and the installation of Maximilian as Mexico's Emperor, advanced up the heights of the tableland to Puebla, where they were defeated in the battle of the Cinco de Mayo (May 5).

1549, the French captured Puebla, advanced to Mexico City and proclaimed Maximilian Emperor of Mexico.

1550, Maximilian arrived in Mexico

City and was crowned Emperor in the Cathedral. He had hidden part of the way from Vera Cruz, with his Empress Carlota, in a couch gilded with pure gold and drawn by six snow-white horses. The couch he brought with him from Austria, it being a parting gift from that country at a cost of \$10,000. It now stands in the Mexican National Museum. Maximilian set to work creating a new nobility, conferring titles and beautifying Mexico City and its environs with true European taste for beauty. He made a mistake in promulgating a law, called "the Black Law," which decreed that any Mexicans taken prisoners, in arms against him, the Emperor, should be executed on the spot. It should be remembered that Juarez was even then the rightful President, and was fighting with his patriots to expel the invaders. Juarez never forgot this fatal and arrogant assumption on the part of Maximilian.

1551, our own civil war being ended, we sent troops to France to withdraw the withdrawal of her troops from Mexico, whom we regarded as a friendly power.

1552, the French troops were withdrawn, and Porfirio Diaz captured the city of Puebla from the invaders.

MAXIMILIAN'S SURRENDER AND EXECUTION.

1553, Maximilian surrendered to Gen. Escobedo at Queretaro. The divided world begged Juarez to pardon his life. Carlota, who was in Europe pleading for the aid of European sovereigns, went mad and never realized nor does she to this day realize that Maximilian was put to death. Juarez was adamant. Who knows all that was in his mind? Perhaps his mind was chiefly filled with the memory of the "black law," which sent to their graves hundreds of Mexican patriots.

Two favorite Mexican Generals of Maximilian, who were taken with him, were Gen. Miramon, of Spanish and Mexican ancestry, and Gen. Mejia, a full-blood Indian. Juarez offered to pardon Mejia, whose record was that of boldlike bravery. He said he could accept Mejia only if it was extended to Maximilian and Miramon. Juarez refused and Mejia stood up with his Emperor and brother general on the tragic "Hill of the Bells," where three stone tablets, within the chapel, erected by the present Austrian Emperor, Franz Josef, mark the place where his brother, Archduke Maximilian, with his Mexican generals, Mejia and Miramon, met their fate.

1554—Porfirio Diaz entered Mexico City at the head of his victorious army and was proclaimed Provisional President.

1555—Diaz elected Constitutional President.

1556—Gonzalez elected President.

MADERO APPEARS AS THE RIVAL OF DIAZ.

1557—Diaz elected President. His first act was to reduce his own salary from \$50,000 to \$15,000 a year. He established schools and compulsory education, made Mexico safe for foreigners and invited them to come in and develop her marvelous resources. They went. It is estimated that a billion American dollars are partly accountable for our keen interest in seeking peace and order in Mexico. Diaz maintained peace for thirty years. To Diaz's last election to office, in 1910, which was in response not only to the demands of great bodies of Mexican citizens but of foreigners and foreign capital in Mexico, there had appeared upon the political field a young man, a native of the northern State of Chihuahua, by the name of Francisco I. Madero.

Madero was educated in Mexico, California and the universities of Europe. He was the son of a large, cultured, extremely wealthy family, with enormous estates and great bodies of retainers of the class known as peones. It is said they treated their working people humanely. In his cosmopolitan life, in this country and abroad, Madero formulated his theories of society and government.

Madero was deeply moved by the affliction and suffering condition of great masses of the Mexican lower orders.

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NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR INAUGURATED TO-DAY IN PLACE OF WILSON.



JAMES FIELDER

PLAIN MR. WILSON FOR THREE DAYS, QUILTS AS GOVERNOR

(Continued from First Page.)

in the man to whom I am about to hand the seal. I have been associated with him with unusual intimacy of counsel. I have found in him qualities of honesty and courage which command men more than any other qualities do in public life."

GREAT COURAGE IS NEEDED IN PUBLIC LIFE.

"The rarest thing in public life is courage and the man who has courage is marked for distinction; the man who has not is marked for extinction and deserves subversion."

"The people of this country are going to be served by conscience and not by expediency. When you strike a man of courage, you feel you have struck the bedrock of our institutions. It is, therefore, with a feeling of confidence and affection for him personally that I hand him the seal of office."

Replying to the President-elect, the incoming Governor said:

"We expect a high order of Service from the Chief Magistrate of this State. I now pledge you to give the best that is in me and to serve well and faithfully. To you, Gov. Wilson, I would say that we part in this official way with the deepest regret, for we have been close friends. Yet my sorrow is tempered by the thought that New Jersey is giving to our country its first President. You carry with you our devotion from dozens of such places, all within easy commuting distance of his office."

TURN EVENTUALLY TO COUNTRY AS IDEAL HOME PLACE.

No city in the world has so many beautiful suburban sections in all stages of completion and perfection as New York. In no other section can one find such a variety of natural charm.

I am fond of water sports—love boating and fishing, sun bathing and swimming. Half a dozen spots ideal for his purpose vie in attractiveness and beckon him. Does he want mountain climbing or horseback riding through wonderful scenery over roads as smooth as a floor? He has only to make his selection from dozens of such places, all within easy commuting distance of his New York office. Or if his face is turned toward the sunset, if he has sated himself with the beauties of the world and now asks only peace and quietness, he will find his haven in the cell-like rooms of New York apartment houses and cling tenaciously to environments which have so little to recommend them, with so much to condemn them?" Why do we, in hundreds and thousands, live out our allotted span to the accompaniment of the wail of a neighbor's fretful infant on one side of us, a wheezy gramophone on the other, a player-piano adapted to perpetual ragtime immediately beneath the bed on which we try to sleep? There is no reason for it, yet we go on doing it and bemoaning a hard fate which compels us to live huddled together, lacking fresh air and sunshine, without a foot of earth on which to step except the asphalt before our doors?

TRY AS IDEAL HOME PLACE.

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That's right, my man!" struck in the President-elect, sticking his head out of the window into the drizzling rain.

"Well, what do you think of that?" gasped Bill, as the cab went on. "The President-elect and I held him up, well I hope he doesn't hold it against me."

The President-elect was fairly mopped by the crowd as he left the State House, men and women fought to get near him. A flying cordon of police led him to his machine.

"Good, good luck," yelled New Jersey.

"Good and thank you," replied Mr. Wilson beamingly.

TWO LOST IN SMOKE RESCUED BY POLICEMAN.

Children Fell Behind as Kantro Was Leading Family From Burning Home.

John Kantro gathered his wife and five children about him in a smoke-filled hall on the second floor of No. 1421 Flatiron Street, Brooklyn, early to-day and told them to follow him to the street. A fire was burning through the vacant store underneath Kantro's photographic gallery and home.

When he reached the sidewalk George and William, the youngest children, were missing. They had become blinded by smoke and lost their way.

John Kantro, of the corner avenue station, who discovered the blaze and aroused the Kantros, the only tenants in the two-story building, went back up into the hallway and found the children huddled in a corner. They were all right after they reached the street.

The fire did only \$300 damage, all in the vacant downstairs room.

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